



Dear Westford Residents,

October 2010



Jodi Ross
Town Manager
978-692-5500

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www.westfordma.gov/tm

*Fall Special Town Meeting
will be held at 7:30pm on
Monday night, October
18th in the Abbot School
Gymnasium.*

**BRUSH CHIPPING DAY –
SATURDAY, OCTOBER
23, 2010 - Highway
Facility, 28 North Street,
from 10:30 am until 4:30
pm.**

*Flu/Pneumonia Clinic
Schedule for the 2010-
2011 Season:*

Thursday, Oct. 21:
12:30PM -3:30PM
Senior Citizens/High Risk
Franco American Club
12:30-1:30> A-J
1:30-2:30 > K-P
2:30-3:30 > Q-Z

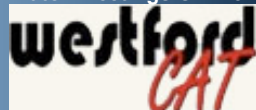
Tuesday, Oct. 26:
1:00PM-3:00PM
JV Fletcher Library

Tuesday, Nov.2:
6:00PM-8:00PM
Millennium

Wednesday, Nov 3:
1:00PM-3:00PM
JV Fletcher Library

Tuesday, Nov. 30:
6:00PM-8:00PM
Millennium

Watch Meetings Online



www.westfordcat.org

Visit
www.westfordma.gov
for current news and
information.

I am extremely proud to announce that our very own Lieutenant Donald Parsons of the Westford Fire Department received the Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award from the State Fire Marshal on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This prestigious award recognizes Lt. Parsons for his outstanding efforts in educating the public about fire prevention and safety through many avenues, including his program entitled "Prevention through Education". Please join me in congratulating Lt. Parsons for this remarkable achievement.

The Town Hall construction project is nearing completion. Our move back into the newly renovated and expanded building is scheduled for next month. The exterior painting is progressing nicely, the elevator is being installed, and the flooring should be finished next week. Please stay tuned for details of our grand re-opening – the building is looking gorgeous, and we can't wait to move back in!



The town department heads are busy preparing their budgets for Fiscal Year 2012. As we are expecting a reduction in state aid, due to the state's reported \$2 billion deficit, we are again facing challenges on continuing to offer the services we provide, while faced with reduced revenues. (*Continued on pages 2-3*)



Dear Westford Residents,

Pages 1-3

The Town Manager's Fiscal Year 2012 Preliminary Budget Message is available for viewing at www.westfordma.gov/tm, and the Fiscal Year 12 Recommended Budget will be presented to the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee on Tuesday, October 26th and will be available online shortly thereafter.

Our Fall Special Town Meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Monday night, October 18th in the Abbot School Gymnasium. The warrant contains 24 articles, with a quick synopsis as follows:

Article 1 seeks funding to provide professional development training for department heads - half just completed training, deemed by all to be the best they had ever received. This will allow the other half to receive the same training. There is also a request to supplement our legal budget due to litigation the town is involved in. There is a transfer request from Ambulance Enterprise Free Cash to enable us to hire two paramedic/firefighters (one will replace a retiring fire lieutenant), to more rapidly become a fully staffed Advanced Life Support ambulance service, and receive additional revenues to help us to achieve departmental self-funding five years earlier than projected.

Article 2 is being dismissed.

Article 3 asks the town to accept the provisions of Chapter 188 Section 66 of the Acts of 2010, which establishes an early retirement incentive program for eligible employees. Approving this will allow us to reduce operating expenses by consolidating positions vacated by employees retiring earlier than anticipated.

Article 4 would amend the Wage & Classification Plan for non-unionized municipal employees, adding two new positions and reclassifying one position. The two new positions are dependent upon the acceptance of the early retirement incentive plan under Article 3, and ultimately will result in the elimination of one full time benefitted position.

Article 5 seeks to transfer \$13,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for a replacement roof at the Technology building on E.Prescott Street, and to transfer \$20,000 from Ambulance Enterprise Free Cash for a Chest Compression System (CPR) machine and a Handheld Pulse CO-Oximeter (CO-Poisoning Detector).

Article 6 seeks to appropriate additional funds to pay possible costs of the construction and renovations to Town Hall, in the event they are needed. As of now the project is still under budget.

Article 7 recommends the town appropriate available funds needed to balance the Fiscal 2011 budget. The final amount to be appropriated is dependent on how much this Special Town Meeting spends.

Article 8 will be dismissed.

Article 9 establishes two new revolving funds – one of which will earmark revenues received from the lease of town buildings: 65 and 73 Main Street and 170 Plain Road for the purpose of maintaining the buildings, and the second for the Senior Center Fitness Room, to allow for payment of trainers and maintenance of the equipment.

Article 10 will be dismissed.

Article 11 would approve a new bylaw restricting the consumption of marijuana on public property.



Dear Westford Residents,

Pages 1-3

Article 12 seeks to change the Town Report to a fiscal year report instead of a calendar year report.

Article 13 is a citizen's petition seeking to re-zone a portion of the property located at 426 Littleton Road from residential to commercial.

Articles 14 through 20 seek acceptance of the following town roads as public ways: Vineyard Road, Tyler Road, Christy Lane Road, Swedes Crossing, Tavern Circle, Daniel Drive, and Elderberry Way.

Article 21 seeks to authorize the Council on Aging to convey to Thomas C. Dubey, Jr. and Patricia L. Dubey an easement over the driveway of the Senior Center property for the purposes of accessing their property.

Article 22 will be dismissed.

Article 23 asks the Town to transfer the care, custody, control and management of the American Legion Ball Fields (Graniteville Ball Fields) on River Street from the School Committee to the Recreation Commission to be used for recreation purposes.

Article 24 is a citizen's petition seeking to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the legislature for two additional liquor licenses for the Cornerstone development.

Please join us at our Fall Town Meeting on Monday night at 7:30pm in the Abbot School Gymnasium. Your input and participation are needed.

Sincerely,



Highway Department News

BRUSH CHIPPING DAY – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2010:

The Westford Highway Department will be conducting its annual Brush Chipping Day for residents at \$10 per load at the Highway Facility, 28 North Street, on Saturday, October 23, 2010 from 10:30 am until 4:30 pm.

- Branches must be no larger than 3 inches in diameter and 10 feet in length. Only reasonable amounts will be accepted.
- No commercial quantities. Proof of residency is required. \$10 CASH fee per load.
- Building materials (i.e. fences, boards), land clearing materials, debris (roots, brushes, brush mixed with poison ivy), leaves, pine needles, or grass clippings will not be accepted. Residents may dispose of yard waste by the following means (Courtesy of Westford Recycles www.westfordma.gov/recycling):

Ways to Dispose of Leaves & Grass Clippings (Yard waste)

- ACME Waste Systems will be collecting leaves on Saturday, November 13, and Saturday, December 4, 2010. The cost is \$1.25 per bag with a minimum charge of \$20.00 per pick up. Please call the Town Clerks Office at 978-692-5515 to register. Put your leaves, grass clippings and pine needles into paper leaf bags and have them at the curb by 7 am on the collection day. Leaves will not be picked up if they are not in paper leaf bags. You will pay ACME directly by attaching a check payable to ACME WASTE SYSTEMS to one of your leaf bags on collection day.
- Bring to: Jones Farm, 246 Acton Rd (Route 27) in Chelmsford. Cost per biodegradable paper bag is \$1.50 when you bring your own bags (no plastic bags accepted). Jones Farm sells pre-paid paper bags for \$1.50 each and there is no additional charge when you drop them off. Call 978-256-8065 for details about: Pick-up, Rake and Take and large quantity drop-off options. Hours: Mon.-Sun. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Bring to: Eric's Garden Center, 68 Boston Rd, Westford. Cost per biodegradable bag is \$2.00. Only grass clippings and leaves are accepted.
- Bring to: BMC, Corp. composting facility in Tewksbury, MA. Contact BMC at 781-273-0398 or 978-667-2171 or go to the BMC website for directions and additional information. BMC will not be selling stickers - residents will pay per yard (leaves \$5 per yard, brush \$10 per yard, grass clippings free). Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7a.m. - 4p.m., Saturday 7a.m. - 12p.m.
- Let grass clippings remain on the lawn. Clippings decompose and fertilize the soil. For your next mower, consider a mulching mower which produces very small clippings.
- A light covering of leaves on the grass can be mowed. They will decompose and fertilize the soil.
- Use clippings and leaves as mulch around trees and shrubs. Leaves are Nature's own choice for mulch. Many web sites offer tips on how to use clippings as mulch.
- Compost leaves and grass clippings. The resulting compost can be used to fertilize trees, shrubs and gardens. Discounted compost bins are available from a Recycling Commission member, 978-692-5483.
- The Highway Department would like to remind residents not to place leaves in the Towns Right of Way and to keep catch basins in front of your property free of leaves and debris. Your help is sincerely appreciated!

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS AND CONTRACTORS:

November 15th is the deadline for Street Opening Permits. Absolutely NO excavation in the Town Right of Ways, except for emergencies, from November 15, 2010 through April 15, 2011.



Changes at the Westford Water Department

The past year has brought significant change to the Westford Water Department staff. Former Superintendent Warren Sweetser's retirement in late 2009 presented an opportunity for Water Treatment Manager Bob Worthley to step in and take over that demanding position earlier this year – and in the process created another gap to plug at Water Treatment Manager. This position was ably filled with the hiring of experienced treatment operator Steve Cronin back in July. More change was to come with Environmental Compliance Manager Jessica Cajigas leaving the department to pursue new opportunities. Mark Warren recently came on board in late September to fill the void at this position.

Steve Cronin – Water Treatment Manager. Steve comes to Westford with extensive drinking water treatment experience acquired from several years as Chief Water Treatment Plant Operator for the town of Hanover. In addition to his practical experience Steve also brings with him a business degree from St. Anselms College. As Water Treatment Manager - Steve's primary responsibility is management of the town's drinking water treatment facilities in order to provide adequate quantity and quality of drinking water to meet public health and fire protection needs. Steve is involved in the day-to-day oversight of the treatment plant operations.

Mark Warren – Environmental Compliance Manager. Mark brings significant regulatory experience gained from over 20 years in the environmental field, including service with commercial environmental testing laboratories and consultants. Mark earned a science degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. As Environmental Compliance Manager - Mark is responsible for water quality monitoring and compliance reporting to the Mass DEP as well as development of water protection strategies, educational programs, and community outreach. Additionally, Mark will continue the Westford Water Department's successful partnership with the schools providing pollution and groundwater demonstrations for Westford schoolchildren.



PARKS, RECREATION & CEMETERY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Westford Community Crew

The Head of the Charles Regatta and Ernestine Bayer Race the world's largest two-day rowing event held on the Charles River in Boston on October 24. Over 300,000 spectators and 8,000 athletes from around the world, rowing in approximately 1,750 boats, are expected. Westford's Recreation Crew program has two has two boats, a men's 4 and a boys' 4 entered into this prestigious event. Crew Coach Ken Gifford, the entire crew team and volunteer staff members will be there to root on Westford's teams and provide support as they compete on the three-mile course. The race begins at the Boston University Boathouse (next to the Hyatt Regency), passes under 7 bridges linking Boston and Cambridge and ends at Artesani Park on Soldier's Field Road in Brighton. Under the guidance of Coach Gifford, WACC kicked off their second fall competitive season September 19 by winning this year's Men's Master 4+ race in Methuen, at the Essex Rowing Club's annual Head of the Merrimack Regatta. Fall head racing fever continued on September 26 with Tail of the Fish, in Saratoga Springs, New York. The high school crew practices Saturday mornings (if there's no regatta) and Tuesday through Friday afternoons. Students do not need experience to join. New rowers race in novice races against other new novice rowers.

The department's highly successful "Fall Fundraiser Fun Regatta," was held on Saturday, September 11. Westford's Crew provided the boats and basic training, and experienced crew members helped skilled and 'wannabe' rowers race their crews 500 meters across Forge Pond. A cookout, sumo wrestling, boat rides and a battle of the bands were also on the busy afternoon's agenda. A Police Boat provided police support and allowed residents young and old to tour the lake. Proceeds are being used to support our Westford Area Community Crew and Westford Academy (WA) Crew Club.

Throughout the year, Coach Gifford offers morning and afternoon learn to row and rowing classes. In the colder months, teenagers and adults learn and practice inside on "ergs" (rowing machines) at the Recreation Department. During the warmer weather, classes are on Forge Pond. For more information, please visit www.WestfordCrew.org and www.WestfordRec.com



September was National Library Card Month and a month of celebration at the J. V. Fletcher Library!. Did you know that two thirds of Americans have library cards? Of course the signatures on the back of them are often actually legible since many of the young card holders have just learned how to print.

Library cards are the same size as most credit cards (which often get handed to librarians in error at check-out time) but there are no downsides to owning one. They don't rack up fees (at least not at the J. V. Fletcher Library); they can't hurt your credit rating and if you lose one your stress level is not dangerously increased. Conversely, with a library card there are only upsides!

Most of our Westford patrons know what services they can find inside the Library, as September's circulation of 28,906 items attests. But some of you may not be aware that you can "shop" at home as well by logging on to our website or visiting our Facebook page. Your library card barcode lets you: browse through a plethora of online databases giving you access to thousands of full text articles in magazines and newspapers; visit Museum Web Sites and reserve passes for family daytrips; download digitized audio books or foreign language tapes to your PC, MAC, MP3 player, or download digital text to your eBook Readers.

In a time when "the cost of something" is almost always a concern, a library card liberates you to get great value for free!

September in brief: after a two-month interlude Saturday hours returned (10 AM to 5 PM); New England Aquarium passes are again available as well. For all fall programs and events at the Library -- including the many new juvenile offerings -- peruse the Library's September Town Wide Mailing or visit our web site www.westfordlibrary.org.